

## Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03

ACDA-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-15

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 MC-02 /075 W  
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R 021553Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6122

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

UNCLAS BONN 01747

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: NATO, GW

SUBJECT: FRG DEFENSE COMMITTEE PROPOSAL OF FRIGATES  
PURCHASE

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A PARTIAL REPEAT OF USDAO 1708,  
DTG 301938Z JAN 76:

BEGIN TEXT: ON 28 JANUARY THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE OF THE  
BUNDESTAG APPROVED THE PROCUREMENT OF SIX TYPE 122  
FRIGATES, WITH AN OPTION TO ACQUIRE SIX MORE. TOTAL  
COSTS OF THE SIX FRIGATES PLUS TWELVE HELOS IS  
ESTIMATED TO BE 2.57 BILLION DM (APPROX. ONE BILLION  
DOLLARS). THE SHIP WILL FOLLOW GENERALLY THE DUTCH  
NATO FRIGATE DESIGN (3,800 TONS, 30 KNOTS, 200 MAN  
CREW). THE SHIPS WILL BE ARMED WITH THE HARPOON SSM, SEA  
SPARROW SAM, 76MM GUNS, LIGHT WEIGHT TORPEDOS, DEPTH  
CHARGES, AND TWO ASW HELICOPTERS AND EQUIPPED WITH A  
NEW SONAR PARTICULARLY SUITED FOR THE COMPARATIVELY  
SHALLOW-WATER OPERATIONS IN THE NORTH SEA.

THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE HAS REQUESTED THE MOD TO  
PROVIDE ADDITIONAL BRIEFINGS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE  
COST ESTIMATES AND THE SELECTION OF THE UK-PRODUCED  
LYNX HELO. THE COMMITTEE EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT THE  
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CAPABILITIES OF THIS HELO FOR ASW. THE FRIGATE PRO-

POSAL NEXT GOES TO THE BUDGET COMMITTEE. CONSIDERATION  
AND APPROVAL ARE EXPECTED HERE IN FEB. OR MARCH 1976.

THE NAVY STAFF EXPECTS TO COMPLETE THE DEFINITION  
PHASE IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1977. SELECTION OF A PRIME  
CONTRACTOR AND CONCLUSION OF A CONTRACT SHOULD NOT TAKE  
LONGER THAN SIX MONTHS, PERMITTING THE FIRST KEEL TO BE  
LAID IN 1978. CONSTRUCTION OF EACH SHIP IS ESTIMATED  
TO REQUIRE 3 1/2 YEARS; SHIPS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE  
DELIVERED IN NINE MONTH INTERVALS.

COMMENT: WHILE SEVERAL ADDITIONAL BUNDESTAG  
HEARINGS AND DECISIONS REMAIN, THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE  
APPROVAL IS A MAJOR VICTORY. THIS IS ONE OF LARGEST  
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAMS IN THE HISTORY OF THE  
GERMAN NAVY. THE 2.57 BILLION DM COST FIGURE WILL  
UNDOUBTEDLY UNDERGO MANY CHANGES AS THE PROGRAM IS  
FURTHER DEFINED. END TEXT.  
CASH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY PROCUREMENT, BATTLESHIPS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MILITARY PLANS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BONN01747  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760039-0325  
**From:** BONN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760293/aaaaddok.tel  
**Line Count:** 80  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 JAN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <20 JAN 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2004 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FRG DEFENSE COMMITTEE PROPOSAL OF FRIGATES PURCHASE  
**TAGS:** MASS, GE, NATO  
**To:** STATE  
NATO BRUSSELS  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006